



## Vinblastine (Velban®)

*At the Clinical Center referred to as vinblastine (vin-BLAS-teen) or Velban® (VEL-ban).*

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**How Given:** Intravenously (by vein)

**Drug Action:** Vinblastine prevents cancer cells from dividing by affecting the tiny rods that form the cell's skeleton.

**Side Effects:**

1. Bone marrow effects can include a temporary decrease in white blood cells and platelets. These may occur 4 days after treatment and last for up to 14 days.
2. The nervous system can be affected. Symptoms include
  - stomach cramps and constipation
  - pain, numbness and tingling, or a “pins and needles” sensation that begins in the fingers and toes
  - difficulty walking
  - difficulty with fine movements, such as buttoning clothes
  - jaw pain

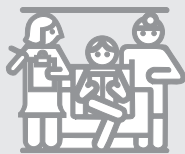
These symptoms may resolve over an extended period after the drug is stopped.

3. Generalized weakness may occur.

**Special  
Instructions:**

1. Tell your nurse immediately if the drug stings or burns during treatment. If the drug leaks out of the vein, it can damage tissue. Prompt treatment is essential in order to minimize the damage.

2. Do not take aspirin or aspirin-containing products unless prescribed by your NIH doctor.
3. Report “pins and needles” sensations to your NIH doctor. Be careful when handling sharp objects. Avoid extremes of hot and cold.
4. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
  - have pain, discomfort, or redness at the injection site following treatment
  - have a temperature of 101.0 °F (38.3 °C) at any time, or have a temperature of at least 100.4 °F (38.0 °C) that lasts 1 hour or occurs two times in a 24-hour period
  - have any unusual bleeding or bruising
  - have not had a bowel movement in 2 days. Discuss constipation prevention measures such as stool softeners and laxatives



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series  
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Nursing Department

Questions about the Clinical Center? [OCCC@cc.nih.gov](mailto:OCCC@cc.nih.gov)